

SEA TURTLE BIOLOGICAL SAMPLE LOG

The purpose of this log is to record body measurements, scute counts and biological samples taken from all incidentally taken sea turtles. For more detailed instructions on incidental take sample collection, refer to the Sea Turtle Incidental Take and Biological Sampling Guidelines section of the NEFSC Observer Program Training Manual.

Do not record information on terrapins on this log. These animals should be recorded on the Individual Animal Log.

INSTRUCTIONS

For instructions on completing the Header fields **A**, **B** and **C**, refer to the Common Haul Log Data section of the NEFSC Observer Program Manual.

If any of the measurements cannot be collected, record a dash (-) in the field and record the reason why is wasn't obtained in COMMENTS.

1. PSID #: Record the consecutive identification number (Protected Species ID) for each animal that is sampled during this trip. This should be the same number as recorded on the Incidental Take Log.

2. SPECIES NAME: Record the complete common name of each incidentally taken sea turtle biologically sampled on this trip, as listed in Appendix A. Species Names.

NOTE: If it is not possible to make a positive species identification, identify the animal to the most specific generic group of which you are positive. Note whether turtle is a hard-shelled turtle (including Loggerhead, Green, Hawksbill and Rيدleys) or a leathery-shelled turtle (Leatherback). **DO NOT GUESS AT SPECIES IDENTIFICATION.**

3. SCANNED: Indicate whether or not all four flippers, head and shoulder areas were scanned for the presence of PIT Tags by recording the appropriate one digit code:

0 = No.

1 = Yes.

4. PIT TAG NUMBER: If a PIT Tag is present and detected by a PIT Tag Scanner record the complete alphanumeric number here.

NOTE: If the turtle is scanned for the presence of PIT Tags and none are found, record a dash (-) in this field.

MEASUREMENTS

Measurements are taken to the nearest **tenth** of a centimeter, over the curvature of the carapace (curvilinear), using a tape. If epibiota affect any of these measurements, record the details in COMMENTS.

5. NOTCH TO TIP LENGTH: Record the curvilinear length measurement of the carapace from the nuchal notch to the posterior marginal **tip**. See Figure 1.

6. NOTCH TO NOTCH LENGTH: Record the curvilinear length measurement of the carapace from the nuchal notch to the posterior marginal **notch**. See Figure 1.

7. WIDTH: Record the curvilinear width measurement of the carapace across the widest part of the shell. See Figure 1.

8. VERTEBRAL SCUTE COUNT: Record the number of vertebral scutes on the carapace of the turtle.
NOTE: The vertebral scutes are the plates that run down the middle of the carapace. See Figure 2.

9. LATERAL SCUTE COUNT: Record the number of lateral scutes on the carapace of the turtle.
NOTE: The lateral scutes are the plates that run on either side of the midline vertebral scutes. See Figure 2.

10. INFRAMARGINAL SCUTE COUNT: Record the number of inframarginal scutes on the plastron of the turtle.
NOTE: The inframarginal scutes are a series

of small scutes covering the bridge bones, between the carapacial marginals and the sides of the adjacent plastral scutes. See Figure 2.

11. 1 PAIR PREFRONTALS?: Indicate whether or not the sea turtle has one pair of prefrontal scales by recording the most appropriate one digit code:

0 = No.

1 = Yes.

NOTE: The prefrontal scales are the scales between the eyes of the turtle. There should be either one or two pairs. See Figure 2.

12. OVERLAP SCUTES?: Indicate whether or not the sea turtle has overlapping scutes on the carapace by recording the most appropriate one digit code:

0 = No.

1 = Yes.

13. DORSAL COLOR CODE: Indicate the dorsal coloration of the sea turtle by recording the most appropriate 2 digit color code:

00 = Unknown.

01 = Black.

02 = Gray-Green.

03 = Orange/Red-Brown.

04 = Brown.

99 = Other, record the color in the COMMENTS section.

SAMPLES

For the following fields, record the **total number** of samples taken. If a sample is not taken, or if the sea turtle is retained whole, record a "0" (zero).

14. WHOLE ANIMAL RETAINED: Record "1" if the sea turtle is retained by the observer to be brought to shore. Record "0" if the sea turtle is not retained.

15. BIOPSY/SKIN

16. OTHER: Record the number of additional samples collected.

NOTE: If any additional sample(s) is (are) collected from this sea turtle, record which ones in COMMENTS.

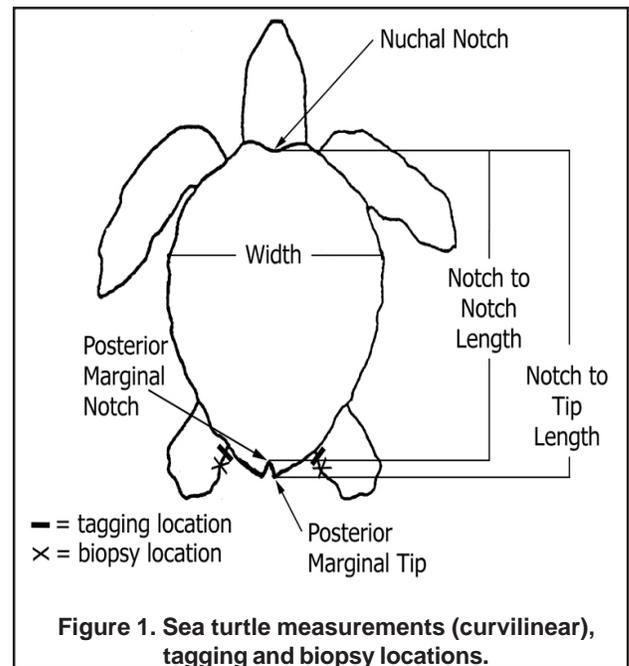


Figure 1. Sea turtle measurements (curvilinear), tagging and biopsy locations.

COMMENTS

Animal specific:

For **each animal**, document how much of the animal was examined (i.e. only dorsal and lateral sides seen). Thoroughly sketch and describe identifying characteristics (including scute counts), new and/or healed wounds, the amount and location of scavenger damage and/or decomposition, the coloration of tissues, condition of the skin (i.e. cracked, cut), the presence or absence of blood (record if bleeding), any missing parts, and smell. Also, sketch the tag and biopsy location(s). Include comments about the animal's behavior on deck and upon release (lethargic, active, calm, struggling, swam away, sank, floated at surface, righted itself, dove, etc). Also record the amount and location of gear remaining on the animal, and the time required for resuscitation. Reference each description with the animal's unique PSID # (#1).

General:

Record any additional information regarding the sea turtle incidental take(s), especially when data are unable to be collected. Reference each comment with its corresponding field name.

